

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Korea

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SUBJECT    Emigration of North Koreans to Manchuria

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1. The rice field area of eastern Manchuria was developed by the Agriculture Department of the Manchukuo government with the help of Korean farmers encouraged to immigrate by the Japanese. After the war, when Communist forces expelled landlords and confiscated the property of middle-class Koreans and Chinese, most of the Korean farmers returned to Korea. The authorities in the area subsequently found some difficulty in persuading Chinese farmers to reoccupy the land, and much of it therefore remained uncultivated.
  2. In the spring of 1947, the Chinese Communist military authorities asked Korean farmers to return, and many who had been unable to acquire new land in North Korea went back to their old property in Manchuria. Because of political insecurity, however, many preferred to remain in North Korea.
  3. In North Korea, agriculture has suffered because of the flight of many border area farmers into South Korea and the low production of the mountain areas. Food has had to be imported from Manchuria, and adequate amounts were hard to obtain because of lowered acreage in Manchuria.
  4. In order to readjust the agricultural balance, a plan was devised in August 1949 by the North Korean government and the Chinese Communists to move 2,000 Korean families into Manchuria. Minister of Interior PAK Il-u (朴一宇) represented the North Korean government and, CHOU Pao-chung (周保中)\* Governor of Kirin Province and LIN Ch'un-ch'iu (林春秋) head of the Yen Kuo (延邊) area Special Representative Office represented the Chinese Communists. Of these, 1,500 families were to come from North and South Hamgyong Province and 500 families from Kangwon Province. Emigration was to be completed by January 1950.\*\*
  5. Moving is not compulsory, but farmers who had not been successful either because they received poor land in the post-war distribution or because of their own negligence and inefficiency were advised by village committees to go to Manchuria. Farmers must bear all moving expenses and can expect to pay similar taxes in kind as they have been paying in Korea. Many residents

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of North Hamgyong Province who had previously lived in Manchuria volunteered to return.

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Comment.  
In late 1948 and early 1949 about ten thousand North Korean farmers were moved into Manchuria to farm collectively the land formerly cultivated by the Japanese Agricultural Colonist Corps.

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